

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ARA-10
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00777

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NEXT STEPS

1. CONTACT GROUP MET MARCH 3 TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS. GROUP QUICKLY AGREED THAT ITS MOST IMMEDIATE TASK IS TO FINALIZE THE PROPOSAL. AMB MCHENRY NOTED TANZANIAN AMB SALIM'S INFORMAL REQUEST THAT, COMPLETED PROPOSAL BE PROVIDED TO FRONTLINE HEADS OF STATE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE FRONT LINE STATES A CHANCE TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES TO WORK ON SWAPO. CONTACT
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GROUP WAS QUITE RECEPTIVE TO THIS SUGGESTION.

2. CONTACT GROUP THEN TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO THE TIMING OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROPOSAL AND PROBABLE SUBSEQUENT SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION. (GROUP REMAINS CONVINCED THAT ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE AND THAT RECOURSE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE

NEXT STEP.) TIMING OF CONTACT GROUP ACTIONS OVER THE NEXT MONTH IS INEVITABLY AFFECTED BY THREE FACTORS: (A) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA; (B) THE UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA'S PLENARY SESSIONS IN LUSAKA FROM MARCH 20-25 (SEPTTEL), OUT OF WHICH MAY COME A "LUSAKA DECLARATION"; (C) THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 24 TO MAY 3. (IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT IF AGREEMENT ON OUR PROPOSAL WERE TO BE ACHIEVED, UNGA SPECIAL SESSION WOULD BE NECESSARY TO APPROVE FINANCING OF UN ROLE IN NAMIBIA.)

3. CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSED A VARIETY OF TIMING POSSIBILITIES BUT REACHED NO CONCLUSIONS. THE BEST-LIKED SCENARIO FOLLOWS:

DURING WEEK OF MARCH 6: FINALIZE PROPOSAL;

MARCH 13 OR 14: PROVIDE COPIES OF FINAL PROPOSAL TO FRONTLINE HEADS OF STATE;

MARCH 16 OR 17: PROVIDE COPIES TO SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA;

SHORTLY AFTER COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA MEETING IN LUSAKA: TAKE PROPOSALS TO SECURITY COUNCIL.

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UNDER THIS SCENARIO THE FRONTLINE HEADS OF STATE WOULD BE TOLD, WHEN GIVEN THE PROPOSAL, THAT WE WOULD HOPE WITH THEIR COOPERATION TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE PARTIES BEFORE GOING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON (SPECIFIC DATE). THE ADVANTAGES OF THIS SCENARIO ARE: (A) IT CONTINUES MOMENTUM; (B) IT WOULD ENABLE THE FRONTLINE STATES TO INSTRUCT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LUSAKA MEETING ON THE BASIS OF THE FINAL PROPOSAL (THIS ASSUMES A FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM THE FRONTLINE TO THE PROPOSAL); (C) IT WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FRONTLINE TO TALK WITH SWAPO ABOUT FINAL PROPOSAL AT LUSAKA. THE PRIMARY DISADVANTAGE WITH THIS SCENARIO IS THAT IT RISKS THE PROPOSAL BECOMING A SUBJECT OF FORMAL DISCUSSION IN LUSAKA AND THUS RISKS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA REJECTION.

4. OTHER POSSIBLE SCENARIOS INCLUDE:

(A) COMPLETING ALL OF THE ABOVE STEPS INCLUDING THE CONVENING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE MARCH 20. THIS SEEMS UNREALISTIC TO ACHIEVE IN TIME AVAILABLE.

(B) WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE LUSAKA MEETING

BEFORE CIRCULATING THE FINAL PROPOSAL. THIS WOULD AVOID FORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSAL AT LUSAKA BUT WOULD DAMAGE MOMENTUM, RISK SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION IN THE MEANTIME, AND ELIMINATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONCERTED FRONTLINE PRESSURE ON SWAPO DURING LUSAKA MEETING.

5. CONTACT GROUP AGREED TO REFER ABOVE POSSIBILITIES TO CAPITALS. GROUP ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO DISCUSS WITH AMB KONIE (ZAMBIA), CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, AND WITH AMB SALIM (TANZANIA) THE ADVISABILITY OF PRESENTING THE PROPOSAL TO THE PARTIES PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN LUSAKA. YOUNG

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